YOU SEE, THERE IS AN ENDLESS NUMBER OF THOSE IN THE OCEAN OF THE INTERNET
THOSE GOATS ARE THE AVATARS OF ALL THE FUTURE RAMBLINGS OF THOSE DESIRING A TRAGEDY ON THE ISLAND.
MY MASTER PREPARED A HUNDRED THOUSAND CONCEPTS TO DENY THEM.
IN ORDER TO DENY ONLY THOSE FEW PEOPLE ...
A SPECIAL ELITE FORCE OF A HUNDRED THOUSAND, HAND-PICKED TO DENY EVERY ONE OF THOSE HIDING IN THE GOLDEN LAND ONE BY ONE!
BUT THE SECOND SQUADRON WILL BE DIFFERENT.
THE FIRST WAVE MERELY CONSISTED OF THE COMMON MASSES
THEY SHOULD BE TURNING PALE AS DEATH AT THE SIGHT OF OUR FLEET NOW.

# CHAPTER 23: TOWARDS THE GOLDEN LAND

...AWESOME...
I'M AFRAID THEY HAVE ALL THE POWER TO BUST THROUGH THE BARRIER OF THE GOLDEN LAND.
WITH THAT MANY THEY DON'T EVEN NEED TO BLUFF.
I MADE SOME WEIRD EXPERIENCES DURING YOUR GAMES, BUT BEING SURROUNDED BY A NAVAL FLEET IS A FIRST.
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL JUST BUST THIS DOOR IN AND WREAK HAVOC.

HOW IS THE BARRIER OF THE GOLDEN LAND SUPPOSED TO STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THIS ARMY?
I DON'T KNOW
BUT IT'S QUITE LIKELY THE BARRIER WON'T BREAK THAT EASILY, SINCE THEY ARE STILL WAITING FOR BACK-UP SQUADS AFTER PREPARING SUCH A HUGE FLEET
...TRUE.
THIS IS THE ONLY REASON WHY THEY WOULD NEITHER ATTACK NOR ANNOUNCE A CLAIM FOR SURRENDER I COULD THINK OFF.
WE SHOULD BETTER MAKE THE BEST ...
OF THE TIME THEY ARE GIVING US...
WHAT WAS THAT ...
A FLYING CANDY...
IT'S ME!
OUCH!

BINK-!
LAMBDA-DELTA ..!
I FOUND OUT WHERE BERN AND THE OTHERS ARE HIDING!
BUT NOT EVEN A RAT COULD SNEAK IN THERE!
SHANNON KANON, CAN I ASK YOU TO STAY ON GUARD?
OF COURSE.
I DON'T WANNA BE SEEN BY THOSE GUYS, SO LET'S TALK INSIDE!
AL-RIGHT!
IF THEY SHOULD START AN ATTACK, DON'T COUNTER AND IMMEDIATELY RETREAT TO THE GOLDEN LAND.
YOU WON'T NEED TO CLOSE THE DOOR
BU... BUT ...
THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO COME INSIDE...

THEY AREN'T AIMING FOR THE DOOR BUT TO CRUSH THE GOLDEN LAND IN A FULL FRONTAL ATTACK!
EVEN THE DOOR WILL NOT KEEP THEM AT BAY!
.....
UNDER-STOOD ....

WHERE ARE ANGE AND BERNKASTEL EXACTLY...?
SO
WHAT DID YOU MEAN THAT NOT EVEN A RAT COULD GET IN...?
AAAAH!
I WOULD HAVE NEVER DREAMED TO ENCOUNTER SUCH ACTION AFTER BECOMING A WITCH!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THAT KIND OF THRILL!
ANGE AND THE OTHERS ARE...

IN THE CAPITAL OF BOOKS.
I'VE HEARD OF IT A SACRED PLACE WHERE ALL THE FRAGMENTS THAT THE VOYAGERS CAME UPON ON THEIR TRAVELS OF THE OCEAN OF FRAGMENTS ARE STORED AS STORIES..
THEY CALL IT "THE HONORABLE CAPITAL OF BOOKS BLESSED BY THE HIGH WITCH OF DRAMA, SPECTACLE AND SPECTATORSHIP".
THE GREAT LADY AURORA IS THE MASTER OF THE CAPITAL OF BOOKS SO THAT DOES MAKE IT QUITE A PLACE.
TO BE EXPECTED OF THE GREAT LADY LAMBDA-DELTA!
ONLY YOU COULD PINPOINT THEIR WHERE-ABOUTS SO QUICKLY!
IT WAS ACTUALLY QUITE EASY TO FIND OUT
OR BETTER SAID ...

AS A "THE BIG REVELATION PARTY FOR THE OPENING OF THE ENDLESS WITCH LADY BEATRICE'S CATBOX"!
THEY ARE ACTUALLY ANNOUNCING IT FROM OVER THERE
EXACTLY.
I SEE... SO THEY ARE NOT WAITING FOR REINFORCEMENTS BUT FOR THE PARTY TO START.
SO IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE PLANNING TO USE ANGE'S KEY TO OPEN THE BOOK OF THE ONE TRUTH.
AND THE BOOK OF THE ONE TRUTH IS TO BECOME THE FINAL HIGHLIGHT OF THAT PARTY.
SINCE IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE LAST PARTY, AURORA IS GATHERING HONORED GUESTS FROM ALL THE LANDS

...SO...
UNTIL THE DIARY IS OPENED AT THE VERY END OF THE PARTY...
WE STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO RECOVER BOTH ANGE AND THE KEY..
IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT TIME, YES.
BUT THERE IS A VERY SIMPLE AND OBVIOUS PROBLEM
WHAT'S THAT?
THE CAPITAL OF BOOKS IS A HOLY REALM UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SENATE! IT'S PROTECTED BY A HOLY BARRIER!
NOBODY EXCEPT WITCHES OF THE SENATE ARE ABLE TO ENTER.
.....

BUT AREN'T THERE VISITORS WHO DON'T HAVE A SEAT ON THE SENATE?
OF COURSE
BUT IT SEEMS THOSE WERE HANDED A SPECIAL "INVITATION" THAT ALLOWS THEM ENTRANCE INTO THE HOLY BARRIER.
ANYWAY, THESE INVITATIONS
THEY HAVE A TIME LIMIT BY WHICH THEY LOSE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IF THEY ARE NOT VALIDATED AT THE FRONT DESK BEFORE THE PARTY BEGINS
"INVITATION"?
.....
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE.
THE PARTY STARTED A FEW MOMENTS AGO.
THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING
I WAS THINKING THE SAME
YEAH... I'M WONDERING WHO ACTUALLY HANDED THESE INVITATIONS OUT...

EXACTLY!
THAT MEANS
EVEN STEALING AN INVITATION FROM A GUEST WHO IS RUNNING LATE IS OUT OF QUESTION
THAT MEANS
YOUR HANDS ARE COMPLEEETELY BOUND!

CAN I GET SOME POPCORN AROUND HERE?
THIS TIME I WANNA HAVE CANDY FLAVOUR!
SO, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
AHA HA HA HA!
シト
シト
シト
ゴ!

I'M AFRAID I'M JUST AN AMATEUR, BUT DOESN'T THIS MEAN IT'S OVER?
MY DOMAIN IS RESTRICTED TO THIS ENDLESSLY RECURRING OCTOBER 4TH AND 5TH ON ROKKENJIMA
I CANNOT STEP OUTSIDE OF IT
AND THE MOST INVIOLABLE PLACE IN THIS DOMAIN IS THIS GOLDEN LAND.
BEING SURROUNDED BY THE FLEET WE HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN.
AND OF COURSE WE CAN ALSO NOT STEP OUTSIDE THE DOMAIN TOWARDS ANGE'S WHEREABOUTS.
SO YOU WANNA SAY THAT IT'S ALL OVER?
DON'T WE HAVE ANY PLACE TO ESCAPE TO?!
COULDN'T WE JUST ALL TRY AND GET TO WHERE ANGE IS

. . . .
. . . .IF WE COULD JUST GET TO ANGE THEN SOMEBODY COULD TRY AND CONVINCE HER...
BUT RIGHT NOW SHE IS HURT AND ANGRY ABOUT THE TRUTH SHE SEARCHED BEING HIDDEN FROM HER AND INSTEAD BEING PRESENTED WITH SOMETHING ENTIRELY DIFFERENT AND GLOSSED OVER.
SHE REALLY DOES REMIND ME SO MUCH OF BATTLER-KUN.
NO WONDER WHEN SHE FEELS BETRAYED BY THE PERSON SHE TRUSTED MOST OF ALL.
BUT THE TRUTH THAT BATTLER WANTED TO TELL HER...
ISN'T MADE UP, IS IT?
. . . . .
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

EVEN THOUGH THIS GAME WAS SUPPOSED TO...
SHOW HER HOPE IN ORDER TO LIVE...
THE BOOK OF THE ONE TRUTH HOLDS NOTHING BUT HARM FOR ANGE
I WANTED TO HIDE IT TO PROTECT HER...
BUT I ONLY HURT HER EVEN MORE IN THE PROCESS
AND YOU NOT BEING ABLE TO TELL THIS DIRECTLY TO HER WHILE HOLDING HER SHOULDERS
IS THE SIGN OF YOUR DEFEAT!
ANGE ...!!
OR DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR ONE AND ONLY SISTER ENDS UP MISFORTUNATE IN EVERY SINGLE WORLD?

IS THERE NOTHING WE CAN DO?!
BUT TO VANISH INTO NOTHINGNESS
WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO PROTECT ANGE
WE ARE AT AN END NOW, RIGHT?!
.....
CAN WE REALLY DO NOTHING BUT WAIT HERE UNTIL THEY ATTACK US?!

THERE IS
ONE THING
TO KEEP STRUGGLING EVEN FOR A MINUTE OR A SECOND.
WHILE WAITING FOR A MIRACLE TO OCCUR ...

A MIRACLE?
IF WHAT WE WANTED ANGE TO SEE...
WAS OUR HEARTS REACHING HER...
THEN SHE MIGHT COME BACK TO US.
AND THEN THIS TIME AROUND WE MIGHT SAVE HER
MAYBE...
BUT ...
ANGE NOT ONLY DENIED US AFTER WATCHING BATTLER-KUN'S GAME BUT ALSO CHOSE THE BOOK OF THE ONE TRUTH.
CAN SHE REALLY STILL COME BACK HERE?
IT IS A MIRACLE EXACTLY BECAUSE IT ISN'T EASY
THAT'S WHY IT'S WORTH TO BET ON!

LISTEN TO HIM
ANGE SHOULD ALWAYS BE ABLE TO RETURN TO HER FAMILY'S SIDE.
SO WE CAN'T GIVE UP UNTIL ANGE COMES BACK TO US.
JUST PROTECTING THIS PLACE AND NOT LOSING ANYBODY.
THAT IS THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO FOR NOW.
...YES.

WE WON'T SURRENDER.
IN ORDER TO WAIT FOR THE MIRACLE OF OUR HEARTS TO REACH ANGE ...
FIGHT FOR EVERY SECOND OF IT.
FIGHT ON!
AND STRUGGLE ON...!!

THE HOUSE OF USHIROMIYA
HAS ALREADY MADE UP ITS MIND.

WE SEVEN SISTERS OF PURGATORY WILL FIGHT FOR LADY ANGE.
AND WE CHIESTER CORPS WILL AID YOU!
THE EISERNE JUNGFRAU WILL BE AT YOUR SIDE TILL THE END!
WE WILL JOIN YOU TOO.

WON'T YOU TOO ...
LEND US YOUR POWER?

NOOOO!
ALREADY DID THE SCOUTING. REMEMBER?
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THE HELP I WAS THINKING OF GIVING YOU!
ME?!
HOW DID YOU MAKE SURE THAT ANGE-CHAN REALLY IS IN THE CAPITAL OF BOOKS?
WITH THOSE EYES HERE!
I ONLY BELIEVE WHAT I SEE WITH MY OWN EYES!
SO THAT MEANS

THAT YOU HAVE QUALIFICATION TO ENTER INTO THE SACRED REALM OF THE CAPITAL OF BOOKS!
ONE LIKE YOU MAY ENTER THE CAPITAL OF BOOKS AT FREE WILL...!!!
OF COURSE !!
YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE SENATE, GREAT LADY LAMBDADELTA!!!
!!

WHAT
YOU GUYS!
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO DO THAT ON MY OWN?!
MY, OH MY, WHAT AN UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS!
ONLY THE GREAT LADY LAMBDADELTA CAN ENTER THE CAPITAL OF BOOKS!
MIGHT THAT MAKE THIS ...
THE SPOT-LIGHT FOR ...
LADY LAMBDA-DELTA!!

A ...
WHAT KINDA NONSENSE ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
ME ALONE?!
I'M SUPPOSED TO GO THERE AGAIN?!
I'M SUPPOSED TO GO AND GET ANGE?!
LAMBDA-DELTA!!
WAIT A SECOND! SAVING ANGE?
OVER-THROWING THE GREAT AURORA'S PARTY?!

ME MAKING THE WORLD MY ENEMY?!
AND MY CHANCE FOR ESCAPE ?!
NONE! NO CHANCE !!
WHAT REWARD COULD YOU EVEN OFFER ME?
THERE'S NOTHING THAT WEIGHS AGAINST MAKING THE GREAT AURORA AND HER PACK OF MONSTERS MY ENEMIES!
BY FOILING THE PLANS OF THE GREAT AURORA AND BERNKASTEL AND BRINGING BACK ANGE ...
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WITNESS A HAPPY END OF EVERYBODY BEING UNITED.

YES, EXACTLY!
THERE IS NO BIGGER THRILL EVER!!
IF YOU PULL OFF A HEIST LIKE THIS, YOU WILL FORGET YOUR BOREDOM FOR THE NEXT THOUSAND YEARS!
WE BEG OF YOU LADY LAMBDADELTA! ONLY YOU CAN DO IT!
ONLY YOU CAN SAVE ANGE!

LEND US YOUR STRENGTH LAMBDA-DELTA!
I WILL SHOW YOU THE GREATEST OF ALL STORIES!
I WILL GIVE YOU A SEAT IN THE FIRST ROW!!

I TOLD YOU TO SHUT IIIIIIT !!
SHUT UUUP !!

ARE YOU ALL STUPID ?!
I'M A SPEC-TATOR!
SPEC-TATOR!!
WHY SHOULD I RISK MY LIFE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU?!

A HAPPY END ONCE ANGE COMES BACK??
ARE YOU BRAIN-DEAD?!
BERN'S ARMY WILL COME IN AND TAKE THIS PLACE APART!
ALL OF IT
AND THEN IT'S ALL OVER!
YOU SAID IT ALL, BEATO!
WILL YOU KEEP HER HERE UNTIL SHE DOES AS YOU SAY? LIKE IN THE CHAPEL?!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO EVEN IF I GOT HER OUT?!
WHO COULD EVEN CONVINCE ANGE?!

I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE LION OVER THERE PROMISED ME AN ENTERTAINING STORY!
AND I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BEGIN VERY SOON...
YOU WILL FIGHT A LAST STAND AGAINST BERN'S FORCES ...
A SAD, SAD STORY OF YOU FALLING ONE BY ONE!!
I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE EVERY ONE OF YOU FAIL !!
AND I WILL BE ABLE TO SEE IT FROM UP CLOSE!

ALL OF YOU WILL SOON VANISH INTO NOTHING-NESS!!
YOU ARE NOTHING MORE THAN CHARACTERS TO ME!!
YOU WILL BECOME CRUMBS BETWEEN THE GOATS TEETH!
HOW DO YOU THINK A SPECTATOR LIKE ME WOULD REACT IF ASKED TO DIE WITH YOU?!!

...
I'M SORRY.
IF MY SPECIALTY WAS SWIMMING UPSTREAM, I WOULD BEAT MY CHEST AND SCREAM "LEAVE IT TO ME!"
I AM THE BEST AND THE WORST

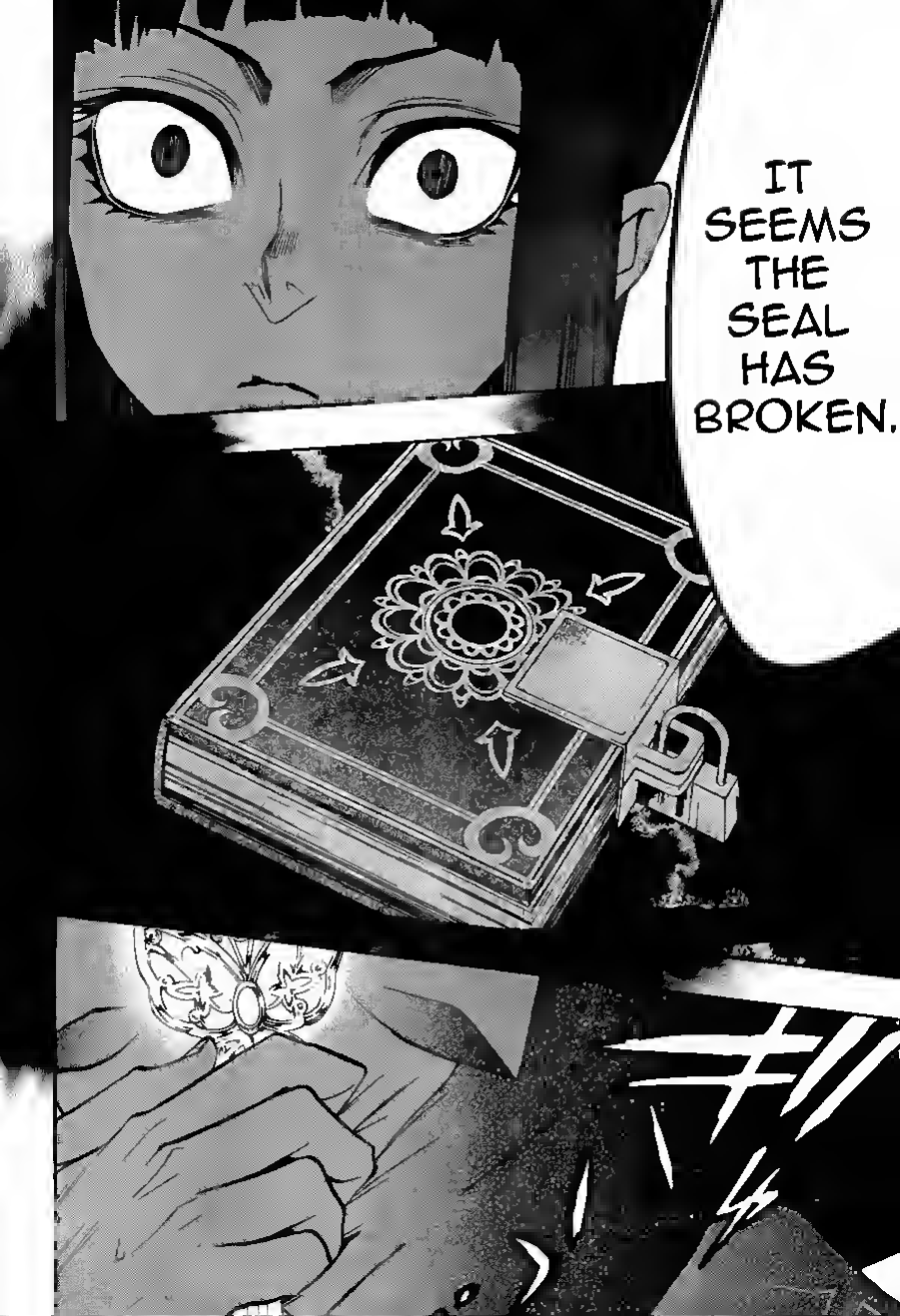
BUT... YOU SEE...
YOU MIGHT BE READY TO HEAD FOR YOUR CLIMAX TONIGHT, BUT TOMORROW IS MONDAY AND I HAVE TO GET UP AT DAWN TO GET READY FOR SCHOOL
I MIGHT BE A MIGHTY WITCH, ABLE TO CROSS COUNTLESS WORLDS...
BUT YOU ONLY EXIST WITHIN BEATO'S CATBOX THAT IS THE FAMILY CONFERENCE OF 1986
WE LIVE IN DIFFERENT WORLDS...
THAT'S WHY...
I...
BAT-TLER

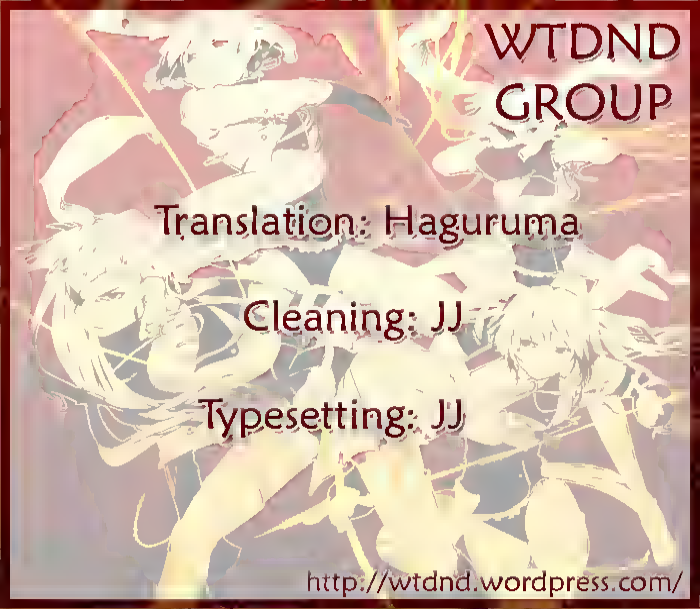
I'M SORRY LAMBDA-DELTA.
I WILL CHANGE PLACES WITH OUR TWO GUARDIANS.
I CAN'T FORCE YOU TO RISK ANYTHING WITHOUT US HAVING TRIED EVEN THE LAST THING WE CAN DO.
I WANT TO BE AT THE FRONT WHEN WE START FIGHTING THEM.
THAT IS THE RESOLVE I CAN MUSTER RIGHT NOW...
IS THERE NO WAY WE CAN GET THROUGH TO WHERE ANGE IS WITHOUT HER POWERS? AT L EAST MY KNOW-LEDGE IS AT AN END.
YES.
TEACHER, PLEASE BRING LADY LAMBDADELTA ANOTHER BUCKET OF POPCORN!
I WILL GO TOO.

WE WILL PREPARE FOR BATTLE AS WELL.
I AGREE
NOTHING WILL CHANGE BY JUST MOPING AROUND!
WE SHOULD ALSO HOLD A TACTICAL MEETING

WHAT NICE SMELLING
INSTANT?
OR MIGHT IT BE A TEABAG?

OH, MY COM-RADE EVA.
HOW ARE YOU?
THERE ARE NO CUPS, SO EITHER A FUNNEL OR A URINE-CUP!
NO THANKS.
OH...
THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE, ANGE.
HOW IS BERNKASTEL DOING?
WILL IT TAKE MUCH LONGER FOR THE SEAL ON THE BOOK OF THE ONE TRUTH TO BREAK?


IT SEEMS THE SEAL HAS BROKEN.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